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Oxford Journal

Thursday, September 5 - Wednesday, September 11, 2013 | Advertising/Newsdesk: 01235 511700 | www.oxfordjournal.co.uk

Childhood obesity in city tackled by new health team

FINGERS ON THE PULSE!

A NEW health service is being launched this weekend to help combat the growing problem of childhood obesity in Oxford.

On Saturday, Reach4Health (Rethink Eating and Activity for Child Health) will be kick-started at the Leys Fair in Blackbird Leys Park between 12noon and 4pm.

By **Jack Johnson**
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

School health nurses from the Oxford Health Foundation NHS Trust will have a stand at the fair to provide parents with information about the new scheme.

The scheme, which is commissioned by Oxfordshire County Council and delivered by the trust's School Health Nursing service, is in direct response to a seven-year long National Childhood Measurement Programme (NCMP).

Results from the NCMP worryingly show that across the county seven per cent of children aged four to five-years-old and nearly 16 per cent 10-11-year-olds are clinically obese.

Cllr Hilary Hibbert-Biles, cabinet member for Public Health and the Voluntary Sector, said: "Reducing this is key to a thriving Oxfordshire.

"We know that overweight and obese children are more likely to become obese adults and children with obese parents are also more at risk.

"If the trend continues children are likely to develop health problems earlier, including long term conditions such as diabetes, cancer and heart and liver disease."

Parents are set to benefit from the scheme, which is a free weight management service for four to 16-year-olds, as it offers on-going support to help families make healthy changes to their lifestyles.

According to the Reach4Health website nine out of ten children

• *Continued on page two*

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Managing Director: Howard Taylor

Experts to tackle childhood obesity

• *From front page*

could end up with dangerous levels of fat in their bodies while the scheme is said to have an empthasis on having fun and will include group sessions with activities, as well as one-to-one support.

Pauline Nicklin, operational manager for Oxfordshire's School Health Nursing teams, explained: "Once families contact us, or referrals are made to us by GPs, Health Visitors or Schools, then we will invite families to be a part of a ten-week programme, where the focus will be on making 'health life style changes'.

"This will include healthy eating and activity.

"Alternatively we can provide one-on-one support for families who will need it."

She continued: "Ongoing support will be given via text and telephone once the sessions have finished and via the all year round activity drop-sessions, which will be held countywide.

"Across all aspects of the Reach4Health programme, the emphasis will be very much on engaging families, not just children and young people and having fun. We want the whole family to get involved and make those little changes that make sure a difference to their health."

Meanwhile, Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust has received good news in terms of funding towards clinical research.

It has become one of just 15 NHS trusts in England to be appointed to run a local branch of National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Clinical Research Network.

As the chosen trust for the Thames Valley and South Midlands, Oxford University Hospitals will be awarded a five-year contract from the Department of Health and will distribute £13million of funding a year to support clinical research across the area.

Prof Keith Channon, director of Research and Development at Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust, said: "This network, which includes NHS partners across the region, will mean more patients benefit from participating in world class research studies. It will also ensure research itself continues to deliver improvements."

University scientists take to the saddle in latest cycling project

A NEW three-year research project starting at Oxford Brookes University in October will investigate ways in which people can be encouraged and helped to cycle in older age.

Cycling accounts for just 1 per cent of journeys in the UK's over-65 population, much lower than Netherlands (23 per cent), Denmark (15) and Germany (nine).

Tim Jones, Senior Research Fellow of the department of Planning at Oxford Brookes University, will be leading a team of researchers in the £1.4m study focused on whether cycling could play a more significant contribution to the mobility, health and wellbeing of the UK population.

The study will conduct biographic interviews and mobile interviews with people as they make a regular journey by bike, in order to capture and measure their experience.

There will also be an experimental trial of new electric bike users to measure how the growth of this assistive technology may affect independence and wellbeing.

The result of this will be the development of a short documentary advising on how the environment and technology could be designed to encourage cycling among older people.

Mr Jones said: "It is a common misconception that older people don't cycle or have no desire to do so.

"But having the option to ride a bicycle is a fantastic way of maintaining independence and community connections and in so doing potentially benefiting physical and mental health and wellbeing."

News Bites

Sex attack

A MAN is wanted by police after a woman was sexually assaulted in Iffley Fields on Sunday.

The woman, 32, was in the fields, near Bedfont Street, when the man approached her and inappropriately touched her.

He is described as of being Filipino or Burmese appearance, in his 30s, 5ft 5ins tall and of slender build.

He was wearing a red jacket, black trousers, a red baseball cap and trainers. Call 101 with information.

Policing talks

THAMES Valley's Police and Crime Commissioner, Anthony Stansfeld, is holding a series of meetings to allow the public to discuss policing in the area.

Mr Stansfeld said: "These events are a good opportunity to engage with the public further about policing and crime in their area.

"It will also be a chance for residents to ask questions or feedback any concerns.

"It is important to me that communities are kept informed and their views are heard so I would encourage as many people to attend as possible."

Oxford meeting is on December 2 at Barton Neighbourhood Centre.

Events will also take place at Banbury Town Hall (September 16), Didcot Civic Centre (October 14), Wantage Civic Centre (January 13) and Witney's Langdale Hall (March 3).

All events will be from 7pm until 9pm.

Kayaking and canoe club is one of the best in country

A THRIVING kayaking and canoeing club in Oxford has been shortlisted as one of the top three in the country.

Canoe England has named Falcon Kayaking and Canoeing Club of Oxford, which is part of Falcon Rowing and Canoe Club, in its top three.

The club will find out on October 12 whether they have come first, second or third and Kayak captain Nick Barnett was delighted to hear the news.

"It's great," he said. "The club has been around for over 100 years and it is the first time that we have been shortlisted so it is great.

"We seem to be on a bit of a high at the moment."

The club has 220 members, 75 of which are juniors, while 2012 Olympian Abigail Edmonds is based at the club.

Nick added: "I don't know what the key element is to why it is all working but it is also down to the whole team of coaches and the volunteers that put the café on on Saturday mornings.

"There is a really nice community spirit down by the boathouse."

• *Kayakers in action at the club*

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Owzat! Cricket pavilion has a £300,000 facelift

A SPECIAL Twenty20 cricket game took place in Cuttleslowe Park on Tuesday night to mark the grand opening of a refurbished pavilion.

Wolvercote Cricket Club took on staff from Oxford City Council's Leisure, Parks and Communites and Waste Management departments, after the council unveiled the top pavilion following a £300,000 renovation.

The pavilion is owned by Oxford City Council and is the home of Wolvercote Cricket Club and North Oxford Football Club.

By **James Booker**
jamesb@taylornewspapers.co.uk

The £300,000 renovation includes improvements to changing room facilities, new windows and doors and five new public toilets.

The multi-function room at the pavilion has also been improved, as have the official rooms.

Cllr Mark Lygo, board member for Parks, Sports and Events, officially opened the facility.

"I hope the high standard of facilities we can now offer will help local teams to increase the number of players and see them improve in their respective leagues," he said.

"The pavilion will also be available for the local community and park visitors to have meetings, children's parties or classes."

The new toilets were installed in response to visitor comments who had stated that the toilets came top of their list for improvements.

"Officers have received over 30 positive comments about the new toilets which shows we are listening to visitor concerns and acting on them," added Cllr Lygo.

Work was carried out on the pavilion for it to meet Sport England, child protection and disability standards.

The pavilion is the first of 12 to be renovated as part of the council's Pavilion Modernisation Programme, which also hopes to build a brand new facility at Grandpont Recreation Ground.

Spaces for bikes have also been made available, and a series of energy-efficient measures are in place in the new facility in order to minimise the council's carbon footprint.

These include improved insulation, low energy lighting, better heating controls and a more efficient water system.

Homeless woman raped near shops

POLICE are still hunting the man responsible for raping a homeless woman in Oxford last week.

The woman, in her 40s, told police that she was raped by a man in the early hours of Wednesday, August 28, while she was sleeping rough in the area between Westgate shopping centre and the car park.

Det Sgt Matt Jarman, of Force CID in Oxford, said: "This is a very concerning incident involving a vulnerable woman who was sleeping rough and we are pursuing a number of lines of enquiry.

"The victim was taken to a Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) last night where she was looked after by trained professionals and given access to all the support she needs.

"If anyone was in the area of the Westgate Centre or adjacent car-park around the time of this incident, or if anyone has information on who was responsible, please come forward."

Anyone with information is being urged to contact Det Sgt Jarman via 101, or, alternatively, Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Teams show paddle power in boat race

HUNDREDS of people flocked to revel out for the annual Bangladeshi Boat Race near Donnington Bridge on Sunday.

Oxford Bangladeshi Boat Club (OBBC) was set up in 2008, and every year since, they have held the Nowka Bais 'Boat Race' at Oxford's Falcon and Rowing Canoe Club (FRCC).

This year's racing featured 10 teams, with the overall competition won by Falcon 'A'

Team Ahmed, pictured, took home the runners-up prize and were also crowned best traditionally-dressed crew.

The Sheriff of Oxford, Cllr Mohammed Abbasi, and Cllr Jamila Azad both attended.

Peter Travis, chairman of FRCC, said: "As always there was plenty of high spirits on the day with the crowd being very noisy.

"Lots of people taking strolls on the towpath stopped and stared at the sight of exotic brightly painted boats from the east racing on a Sunday afternoon in Oxford.

"Having decided to run the race this year as a free 'open' event we had a great new 'mixer' for 'boaty' folk in the city.

"Next year we plan to link the event to getting more Asian Oxford children interested in learning to canoe and learning to swim."

Mr Travis also thanked Oxfordshire County Council, who gave a grant to organisers in order to stage this year's competition, Regal Centre in East Oxford, and Anamul Haque, whose Eynsham-based restaurant Ready Steady Spice provided free food for teams and competitors.

• *Team Ahmed, who won 'Best traditionally dressed crew'.*

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Research boffins zoom in on jet-lag problems

RESEARCHERS at Oxford University may have taken a step closer to finding a cure for jet-lag.

By **Jack Johnson**
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

New research in mice has revealed why the body is slow to recover from jet-lag and has identified a target for the development of drugs that could help people adjust better to changes in time zone.

Oxford University and F.Hoffmann La Roche scientists have identified a mechanism that limits the ability of the body clock to adjust to changes in patterns of light and dark.

The study showed that if the activity of this gene is blocked, mice will recover faster from disturbances in their daily light and dark cycle which is designed to simulate jet-leg.

When travelling to a different time zone, the body clock eventually adjusts to the local time but this can take up to one day for every hour the clock is shifted, resulting in several days of fatigue and discombobulation.

Dr Peirson, of Oxford's Nuffield Laboratory of Ophthalmology, said: "We've identified a system that actively prevents the body clock from re-adjusting.

"If you think about it, it makes sense to have a buffering mechanism in place to provide some stability to the clock.

"The clock needs to be sure that it is getting a reliable signal, and if the signal occurs at the same time over several days it probably has biological relevance. But it is this same buffering mechanism that slows down our ability to adjust to a new time zone and causes jet lag."

Professor Foster, director of the Oxford University Sleep and Circadian Neuroscience Institute added: "We're still several years away from a cure for jet-lag, but understanding the mechanisms that generate and regulate our circadian clock gives us targets to develop drugs to help bring our bodies in tune with the solar cycle. Such drugs could potentially have broader therapeutic value for people with mental health issues."

Until now, little was known about how light affects activity in the area of the brain called suprachiasmatic nuclei (SCN) which controls the body clock and why it takes so long to adjust when the light cycle changes.

• *Flashback. Revellers battle the elements at a previous St Giles festival*

Crowds expected to throng city streets for fair

THOUSANDS of people are set to take to the streets of Oxford on Monday and Tuesday next week, as the annual, St Giles fair returns for another year.

The was originally a parish festival, celebrating the feast of St Giles, and is held on the first Monday and Tuesday after St Giles Day (September 1).

However, as is the case this year, when September 1 falls on a Sunday, it is held on September 9 and 10.

It dates back to the 1620s, when it was a parish feast held in celebration of St Giles.

However, it has since been a toy festival in the 18th century, and a general children's fair in the 19th century.

Festival goers in 2013 will be able to revel in all the traditional fairground attractions, such as helter-skelter, coconut shy, dodgems and carousels.

And people seeking a bit more of a thrill will be able to experience a whole host of plus white-knuckle rides.

News Bites

Free sports

FOOTBALL and cricket fanatics will have the opportunity to brush up their skills at Peat Moors, next to Bullingdon Community Centre, in free sport sessions every Thursday.

Oxford City Council are providing football sessions between 5-6pm and cricket between 6-7pm.

There is no need to pre-book while an instructor will be on hand to give out some coaching tips and coordinate matches and games.

Job creation

A NEW convenience store in Oxford has helped to create 19 new jobs while also giving something back to the community.

To celebrate the launch of the new Midcounties Co-operative on Walton Street, 14 people from the store donned their gardening gloves to volunteer at Elder Stubbs allotments in Cowley.

Knitters ready

KNITTERS in Oxford are being asked to get their needles ready and help knit 15,800 miniature hats for Age UK's Spread the Warmth campaign.

There are only four weeks remaining for Age UK Oxfordshire to reach the target while the charity hopes to have one million little woolly hats, which will adorn innocent smoothie bottles, knitted by October.

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Man attacked

A MAN was taken to hospital after being assaulted by two men in Oxford last Saturday.

The victim, 24, was sat on a wall in Hythe Bridge Street at 3am when the men approached him.

They verbally abused him, before walking away, but returned shortly afterwards and punched him in the face, which required stitching.

The main attacker was Asian, between 5ft 8ins and 5ft 11ins, had a shaved head and was wearing a white shirt and jeans.

The man with him was also Asian and had short brown hair in a side parting, and large eyebrows.

Dance sessions

NEW street dance sessions are now underway in Rose Hill and Cutteslowe.

The sessions are available to 15-21-year-olds and are every Wednesday at 5.30pm in Rose Hill Community Centre and Tuesday at 8pm in Cutteslowe Community Centre.

Led by a qualified street dance instructor, the sessions also include a fitness circuit class.

Each session costs £1.

Emergency help

OXFORDSHIRE'S residents will get the chance to learn how to be better prepared for emergency situations.

County council representatives will stage 10 visits around market days across the county, beginning in Woodstock on Saturday.

Plans ready for any fire strike action - councillor

A SENIOR county councillor promises that plans are in place to cope with potential strike action from the fire service.

By **Jack Johnson**

jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

The Fire Brigades Union (FBU) is calling for a strike after national negotiations on pay and pension reform failed to reach an agreement.

As part of contingency planning, Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service had been trying to get an agreement locally, based on a national protocol signed by the Trades Union Congress (TUC) with the government in 1979.

It allows workers to carry on doing life and business-saving activities during strike action but, to date, the FBU has locally refused to sign up to such a protocol.

However, an agreement has been reached between Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service and the union to provide major incident cover for emergencies that require eight fire appliances or more and respond to any national emergencies during any potential strike action.

Cllr Rodney Rose, deputy leader of Oxfordshire County Council has reassured the public but has expressed frustration at the union's decision to ballot firefighters in support of a strike.

"I hope that this dispute can be resolved quickly and firefighters can get back to what they want and the public expects, which is to protect the community.

"At least here in Oxfordshire there has been strong forward planning to mitigate negative impacts of strike action."

The county's fire and rescue service has also arranged for emergency cover to be provided by Securitas, who have been specifically trained, while cover is already provided by the use of staff that are not engaged in industrial action.

Chief Fire Officer David Etheridge said: "Oxfordshire residents should be reassured that we have been planning for some time to develop strong resilience arrangements, which provides me with the confidence to give the assurance that while this will not be our usual response standards that levels of fire cover will be in place for those who have to dial 999 during any strike."

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Thai food and culture theme is a success

OXFORD'S first Thai Food and Culture Festival proved to be a success, according to its organisers.

Thai based exhibitors, such as the Bangkok House on Hythe Bridge Street, the Chaba Thai restaurant and children from the Thai Temple on the Abingdon Road and the Muay Thai Boxing Academy on Templars Square, entertained the crowds throughout the day.

About 1,500 people flocked to Botley Park and Joe Moleekool, one of the organisers, said: "It went very well, better than we thought. A big crowd turned out considering that it was our first year.

"For a long time we have thought about doing something for communities because there are lots of Thai people in and around Oxford.

"We thought we should do something to get the communities together and show some Thai culture to the local community."

• *Visitors sample treats at the Thai food and culture festival*

Mark Vongsakul of the Bangkok House, who also helped to organise the event, said they will be looking to expand the festival next year.

"For our first year, all our exhibitors were Thai based," he said, "but obviously we will be looking to expand and we will welcome other exhibitors from in and around Oxford and the Oxfordshire area."

The festival raised money for Sobell House, the Thai Temple and an orphanage in Bangkok.

The funds were still being counted as the Journal went to print.

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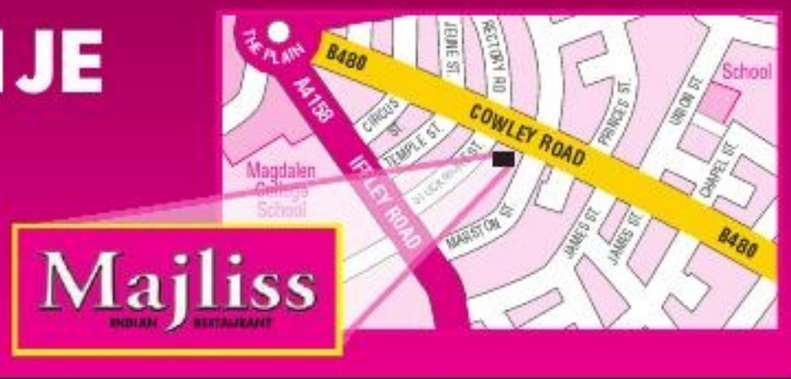

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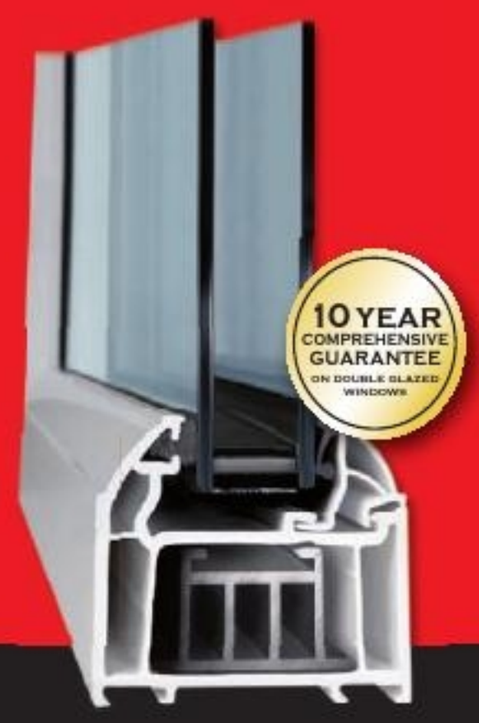

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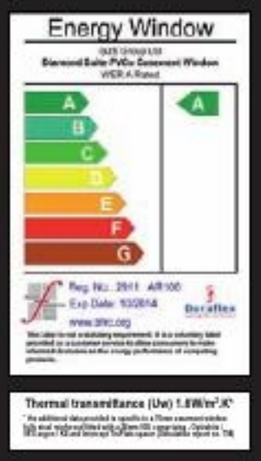

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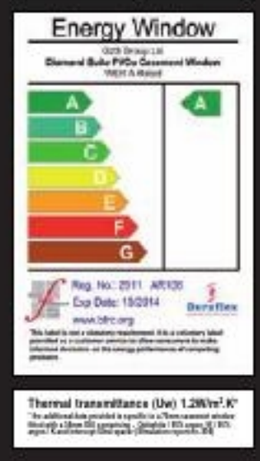

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Police step up hunt after river attack

POLICE are still hunting three men who pushed another man into a river after hitting him with a plank of wood.

The 49-year-old victim was walking near Isis Lock on August 23 when he was approached by three men, who were of Indian subcontinental or Pakistani appearance.

They hit him on the head and pushed him into the river, leaving him requiring stitches.

A friend of the victim tried to intervene, but he was punched several times in the head by the three attackers.

All three were carrying luggage, believed to be large plastic woven raffia-style bags which were red, white and blue.

Investigating officer PC Charlie Pollard said: "This was a nasty and totally unprovoked attack.

"The luggage these men were carrying is very distinctive, so we are hopeful that someone will recognise this description.

"I urge anyone who remembers anything to come forward and help us bring these offenders to justice."

All three men are described as being in their 30s. The main offender is six-foot tall, of strong build and had a thin moustache.

The other two offenders are both around 5ft 8ins.

Markets receive major council business boost

GLOUCESTER Green's markets are set for a major business boost after the city council entered into investment talks with two market organising firms.

By **James Booker**

jamesb@taylornewspapers.co.uk

The council has granted a five-year licence to Liverpool-based Geraud UK and LSD Promotions, based in the West Midlands, to raise the popularity and profitability of the markets in Gloucester Green.

As of October 1, the two companies will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the market, with the first market day taking place the following day.

Councillor Bob Price, leader of Oxford City Council, said: "We believe that markets are an essential part of Oxford's diverse retail offer.

"This new agreement is good news for traders and customers of Gloucester Green markets.

"The new operators will contribute significant new investment into the markets to refresh their appearance and attract more customers.

"Improved promotion will also mean increased profitability for market traders and the other traders in Gloucester Green.

"The new operators have extensive experience of managing successful markets and we look forward to working closely with them. This is also good news as the new partnership will result in a significant saving to the Council and contribute to the expenditure reduction target for 2013/14.

Tony Fraser, deputy chief executive of Geraud UK, said: "We see a huge opportunity to improve the market offer in Gloucester Green and we are looking forward to working with the Council to increase the popularity or the markets amongst customers and their profitability for stallholders and local businesses.

"Oxford has so much potential which we are determined to unlock. This is fantastic news for everyone involved."

Under the new terms, all the existing markets will continue, and it is hoped more stallholders will be added.

The council will still set the rents, while Geraud and LSD will oversee rent collection and debt management.

Child smoking figures rise with return to school

SHOCKING figures about the number of children who will start smoking in Oxford on a weekly basis have been released, coinciding with the beginning of the new school term.

A study by Cancer Research UK has revealed that ten children in the city will start to smoke each week with a county wide figure of 35.

The figures relate to children aged 11-15-years-old and have been circulated as part of the charity's 'Setting the Standard' campaign to highlight the problem and underline the importance of action to discourage young people from starting to smoke.

Helen Johnstone, Cancer Research UK spokesperson for Oxfordshire, said: "The excitement of starting a new term is in stark contrast to the reality of the number of children who will start smoking every day. In Oxfordshire alone this is 1,837 children every year."

The charity are also urging the Prime Minister David Cameron to commit to plain, standardised packaging of tobacco and Alison Cox, Cancer Research UK's tobacco control lead, added: "The Government's delay to bring in standard cigarette packs will cost lives.

"Doing nothing is not an option when 567 children take up smoking every day in the UK. There is no doubt that urgent action is required to stop branded cigarette packaging and reduce the number of children who start to smoke.

"Replacing slick, brightly coloured packs that appeal to children with standard packs displaying prominent health warnings, is a vital part of our efforts to help protect the health of our youngsters.

"Reducing the appeal of cigarettes with plain, standardised packs will not stop everyone from smoking, but it will give millions of kids one less reason to start."

• *Highlighting the 'stop smoking' message*

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If you would like your event considered for publication please contact reporter Adam Flinn at adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk or telephone 01235 516933

Miss Julie at your peril!

DIDCOT Cornerstone is host to the UK Touring Theatre later this month, as they bring their adaptation of August Strindberg's famous production Miss Julie to the stage.

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Set in Sweden on Midsummer's Eve in 1888, the play follows the relationship between the aristocratic Miss Julie and Jean, her father's valet.

It starts off as a harmless flirtation, but soon turns into a ferocious power struggle and battle of the sexes, from which neither can escape.

Felicity Rhys is the producer of the show, and is also playing the lead role of Miss Julie during the show's run.

"It's so exciting doing both roles, " she said. "I've been an actress for 12 years, and the theatre company is a new challenge, which is great.

"It means you have to plan ahead a lot, so by the time you get to rehearsals you can just focus on the acting. It's nice to have artistic control as well, a great provision over what you want to do, and it's definitely well worth it."

Felicity and members of the theatre company re-translated the original Swedish text of the story into English, to mark the centenary of Strindberg's death last year.

Director Denis Noonan said: "The process of re-translating the play from scratch took about eight months, but the result is a script that I think really reflects what Strindberg originally wanted to achieve with this play.

"Miss Julie is a very powerful piece, as well as being exciting and accessible to a modern audience."

The story of Miss Julie has been performed around the world, and is widely regarded as Strindberg's masterpiece as well as being frequently adapted and updated.

• *Felicity Rhys as Miss Julie, comes to Cornerstone on September 27*

Felicity added: "There's a lot of tension in the show, tragedy of course and a bit of humour as well, alongside some crafty characters.

"Miss Julie is probably one of the best characters ever written for a woman. It's a real challenge for an actress to play, and it's a fantastic piece of drama."

Tickets cost £14.50 for a 7.30pm start on September 27.

For more information and to book tickets, call 01235 515144 or visit www.cornerstone-arts.org.

Henry VI

SHAKESPEARE'S classic play Henry VI is being staged at the Oxford Playhouse from Tuesday, as the acclaimed Globe Theatre on Tour returns to the venue.

Henry VI follows the death of Henry V, where divisions are appearing around the infant king. It is split into three plays: Henry the Sixth, The Houses of York and Lancaster, and The True Tragedy of the Duke of York.

Tickets start from £21 and are available online at www.oxfordplayhouse.com or by calling 01865 305305.

Playground

A NEW work and collaboration platform for performers and visual artists is being held at the Old Fire Station in Oxford on Tuesday, to encourage development and presentation of new work.

Playground will introduce a space for meeting up, networking and collaboration between artists in the region, to allow them to try things out and open up communication paths with other practitioners in the area.

It will take place on the second Tuesday of every month. For more information, go to www.oldfirestation.org.uk.

Denver tribute

A TRIBUTE to 1970s music sensation John Denver is being staged at Banbury's Mill Arts Centre on Saturday, with Ivor George taking the role of the influential singer.

Performing alongside him is strings specialist Richard Spong, an experienced multi-instrumentalist and vocalist who can play with a range of styles.

Call 01295 297002 or visit www.themillartscentre.co.uk for more information.

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'Brothers' musical date

By **Adam Flinn**

adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

INTERNATIONAL smash hit musical Blood Brothers is coming to the Oxford New Theatre on Monday for six days, as the show continues its tour across the UK.

It tells the captivating story of how twin boys were separated at birth, later to be reunited by a twist of fate and their mother's haunting secret.

Mrs Johnstone is a young mother who is deserted by her husband and left to raise seven children on her own, forcing her to take a job as a housekeeper to make ends meet.

But before long she discovers she is pregnant yet again, and this time she is expecting twins.

In a moment of desperation, she enters into a secret pact with her employer, which leads to the show's dramatic climax.

The production of Liverpool life has been performed in London's West End for 24 years, and touring the country since 1995.It features a memorable score that includes "A Bright New Day', 'Marilyn Monroe' and 'Tell Me It's Not True' among it's line-up of hit songs and music.

The score was written by Willy Russell, whose previous works have included Educating Rita and Shirley Valentine as part of his distinguished career.

Educating Rita was initially commissioned by the Royal Shakespeare Company, and enjoyed a two-year run in the West End.

Blood Brothers will be directed by Bob Tomson and Bill Kenwright, with Maureen Nolan playing the coveted lead role of Mrs Johnstone alongside narrator Warwick Evans.

Shows start at 7.30pm from Monday, with an additional 2.30pm performance on September 14.

• *Maureen Nolan and Warwick Evans star in Blood Brothers, at the New Theatre from Monday*

One night only

THE critically acclaimed show That is All You Need to Know is coming to the Oxford Playhouse for one night only this evening, based on the story of the Enigma code breakers at Bletchley Park.

Hosted by theatre group Idle Motion, the production uses personal testimony, multimedia and inventive staging as a celebration of the people whose hidden heroism changed the course of history.

The show starts at 8pm, with tickets costing £13. Go to www.oxfordplayhouse.com or phone 01865 305305 for more details.

Poetic return for Hutchins

ROY Hutchins returns to the Burton Taylor Studio to perform Forbidden Fruit on Tuesday and Wednesday - a collection of poems from Heathcote Williams' latest collection.

The pieces include a celebration of bees and an extraordinary encounter with a jackdaw, and follows on from Hutchins' sell-out success Darwin's Nose.

Tickets are available through the Oxford Playhouse, and cost £10.

Slam Cartel

LONDON-BASED rock band Slam Cartel are at Oxford's O2 Academy tomorrow evening, following on from the release of their debut album Handful of Dreams.

They can count Billy Morrison and Russell Brand among their fans, and are set apart by the pride they take in their music.

It starts at 7pm, with tickets costing £8.05. Call 0844 477 2000 to book.

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Or on a postcard to Competitions, Oxford Journal, Newspaper House, 4A Hawksworth, Didcot, Oxfordshire OX11 7HR

WIN tickets to the Dubai Duty Free 'International Weekend'

MEMORIES of the mighty Mill Reef will be evoked at The Racecourse Newbury on Saturday, 21 September with the forty-second running of the Dubai Duty Free-sponsored event named in tribute to the 1971 Epsom Derby hero.

Widely regarded as one of the greatest horses of all time, Mill Reef went on to etch his name on the Eclipse Stakes, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes and the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, taking his place among racing's elite.

The highlight of an action-packed two-day fixture, which is targeted by leading owners and trainers, the Dubai Duty Free Mill Reef Stakes has a special place in Newbury's racing calendar as it often throws up horses with serious Classic race potential.

Closing date: Friday, September 11

Sharing the billing is the Group 3 Dubai International Airport World Trophy, the Group 3 Dubai Duty Free Legacy Cup and the Dubai Duty Free Handicap with a purse of £75,000, a notoriously competitive handicap, whose roll of honour includes Her Majesty The Queen's Leading Star.

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7 Sep, 10.30am - 4.30pm
Pegasus Theatre Magdalen R oad Oxford
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7 Sep, 5.30pm
Dorchester Abbey Dorchester-on-Thames
MUSIC IN THE ABBEY: STEVEN ISSERLIS WITH OSJ ORCHESTRA
Acclaimed musician Steven Isserlis joins OSJ conducted by John Lubbock Event website: www.osj.org.uk

7 Sep, 8pm
General Foods Sports & Social Club Spiceball Park Road (5 minutes from Junction 11) Banbury
BANBURY SOUL CLUB'S ANNUAL CHARITY NIGHT
Playing Classic Northern Soul and Motown in memory of our good friend Dave Bailey. All music played on original vinyl records. Guest DJ's on the night Ledders and Topsey Turvey. Plus resident DJ's Charlie Mc, Steve Milsom and Tom H. to 1.00 am £5.00 on the door Large sprung wooden dance floor for those that love to dance, 250 capacity, plenty of seating and a very warm welcome. Contact: Steve 077943 793417 or Tabs 07528 285977 if you would like to know more!

7 Sep,
The Glee Club 3 Hythe Bridge Street Oxford
DAVID WHITNEY, BENNETT ARRON, RIA LINA, COMIC TBC
David Whitney's material is a fine blend of political satire and pure filth, it has been said he's the thinking person's comic. If they think also of filth. He's a lot of fun. With fans like Reginald D. Hunter and Eddie Izzard, it's hard to argue. Sat: £14.50 / £5 students / £17 food special Age restriction: 18+ Box Office: 0871 472 0400 www.glee.co.uk/oxford

7 Sep, 11am - 6pm
Five Alls at Filkins Lechlade
HARVEST FESTIVAL
Five Alls' Harvest Festival day-long celebrations will offer a unique chance to meet, sample and buy some of the very best Cotswolds-based food and drink producers and suppliers and products made by local artisan craftspeople. The festivities will also include live music, a Five Alls BBQ and plenty of games and activities for children. Entry to Harvest Festival is free. "

7 Sep, 10am - 12pm
All Saints School, Ladygrove Community Centre Tamar Way Didcot
SATURDAY MORNING STAGESCHOOL
Age 6 - 16 years Singing, dancing and acting for boys and girls from 6 to 16 years. Experienced friendly teachers, no auditions necessary.   Contact: Kirsty Forbes, Telephone 07802 531459.

8 8 Sep, 7.30pm
Dorchester Abbey Dorchester-on-Thames
MUSIC IN THE ABEY: STEVEEN ISSERLIS WITH OSJ ORCHESTRA AND V
Acclaimed musician Steven 9 Sep, The Jericho Tavern 56 Walton Street Oxford
LAURA HOLLAND BAND

10 Sep - 11 Sep, 8pm - 10pm
The North Wall Arts Centre South Parade Oxford
MONKEY BARS – CHRIS GOODE & COMPANY AND UNICORN THEATRE
A funny and surprising verbatim show offering insight into what children are trying to tell us about their lives that we don't always hear.

10 Sep - 14 Sep,
Oxford Playhouse 11-12 Beaumont Street Oxford
SHAKESPEARE'S THREE HENRY VI PLAYS
The acclaimed Globe Theatre on Tour returns with a rare opportunity to see the three plays of Henry VI. Shakespeare's plays offer a powerful rendering of a country wracked by civil war. Each production can be enjoyed on its own, either with or without knowledge of the others.

10 Sep - 6.30pm - 8.30pm
Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre Lecture Theatre Windmill R oad Oxford
NRAS RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENT GROUP
The Oxford group of the National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society is hosting a meeting for those affected by rheumatoid arthritis

10 Sep - 11 Sep, 7.30pm -
Burton Taylor Studio Gloucester Street Oxford
FORBIDDEN FRUIT

13 Sep - 14 Sep,
Cornerstone 25 Station R oad Didcot
CORNERSTONE'S 5TH BIRTHDAY
In September everyone is being invited to come and celebrate Cornerstone's 5th birthday. There's a GALA EVENING on Friday 13 with Alice Francis, the "First Lady of Cool Swing", and then there's a special thank you to everyone at a FREE MINI FESTIVAL on Saturday 14, when Cornerstone is putting on a birthday party no one will ever forget. The building, inside and out, will be flooded with colourful and quirky entertainments which will start at 10am with a family friendly drama-based treasure hunt, and go on late into the night when there's a vaudeville cabaret for grown ups. Watch out for the stilt walkers, music and drama in places you really wouldn't expect it, digital music workshops, flash mobs, fun fair stalls.....and there are more very special surprises too...all events on Saturday are free...and will be compared by our Mistress of Ceremonies.

13 Sep, 8pm
Wallingford Town Hall Wallingford
WEST HANNEY, LOWBURY, AND ANGLO-SAXON OXFORDSHIRE: THE FIFTH TO EIGHTH CENTURIES IN THE UPPER THAMES

14 Sep - 15 Sep, 10am -
Pegasus Theatre Magdalen R oad Oxford
OPEN DOORS
Pegasus joins in the Oxford wide Open Doors weekend The annual Oxford events goes behind the scenes to visit the backstage areas where artists mix, rehearse, create and prepare. Over the weekend there will be backstage tours and taster workshops in circus skills plus creative crafts and face painting in the cafe. http://www.pegasustheatre.org.uk/shows/op

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7.30 pm

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Parties booked and deposited for more than 10 people get free wine and 10% discount on meals.

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EARLY DINER'S SPECIAL

Monday to Thursday 12-2pm 6-7.30pm

2 courses £11.95, 3 courses £14.95

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Homemade soup of the day *served with warm bread*
Duo of smoked fish *with a piquant sauce & dressed leaves*
Mozzarella and tomato salad

MAIN COURSES

Fish of the day *in a Wadworth beer batter with salad, tartar sauce & chips*
Vegetarian fish and chips *dressed leaves (Deep fried halloumi) (v)*
Home baked honeyed ham *topped with a brace of eggs with chips & baked plum tomato*
Sun-dried tomato & olive risotto *dressed rocket salad (v)*

SALADS

Piri piri grilled chicken *with chilli dressing*
Chargrilled Halloumi *and roasted tomato dressing (v)*
(v) Vegetarian option

PUDDINGS

Banoffee Tart
Summer berry Eton mess

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Tel: **01865 244372** www.whitehartwytham.co.uk

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To be in with a chance to win, just answer the simple question below, but for more chances to win great stuff visit www.cat-footwear.co.uk/lotus between 1st September and 11th October to enter a prize draw to win a Lotus F1 Team Race Day Experience and a selection of Lotus F1 Team goodies!

Closing date:
Friday, September 20

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Q: Who drives for Lotus F1? Is it Lewis Hamilton, Kimi Räikkönen or Jenson Button?

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AUTOWEEKLY

Focus is on Ford Eco Boost

REVIEW: FORD FOCUS ECOBOOST

By **Philip Shoulder**

@writeonmotoring

FORD has announced a new ultra-efficient version of the Focus 1.0-litre EcoBoost that will be the first petrol-powered family car in Europe to offer 99 g/km CO2 emissions.

The Ford Focus 1.0-litre EcoBoost ECOnetic has returned 67.5mpg in tests thanks to its specially calibrated 100PS version of the firm's high-tech small capacity engine. To help it achieve these class-leading efficiency levels, the new model also incorporates other eco-technology, including ultra-low rolling resistance tyres, different aerodynamics under the car and revised gearing.

"Just a couple of years ago few would have thought that a medium-sized petrol car could break the 100g/km CO2 barrier," said Barb Samardzich, European Product Development vice president. "Ford's 1.0-litre EcoBoost engine has a habit of taking expectations of what a petrol engine can deliver and turning them upside down."

The new model will extend the range of EcoBoost equipped Focus models to three; alongside the standard 100PS version, with 109g/km CO2 emissions, and the 125PS with 114g/km CO2.

Introduced to the Fiesta, B-MAX, C-MAX and seven-seat Grand C-MAX last year, the 1.0-litre EcoBoost engine will be extended to the EcoSport SUV, Transit Connect and Transit Courier commercial vehicles; Tourneo Connect people mover; and later the all-new Mondeo.

Ford's EcoBoost engines are able to deliver power, combined with efficiency, due to a low inertia turbocharger, split cooling system and direct fuel injection. ECOnetic variants also utilise other eco-technologies, including Auto-Start-Stop, Smart Regenerative Charging, Active Grille Shutter and Ford EcoMode to support a more economical and environmentally friendly driving style.

A zero emission Focus Electric will follow this autumn, along with the diesel Focus ECOnetic that promises emissions as low as 88g CO2.

"With the Focus 1.0-litre EcoBoost, Focus Electric and Focus ECOnetic, Ford offers customers an unrivalled power of choice of fuel-efficient family cars," said Sherif Marakby, medium car vehicle line director, Ford of Europe.

• *Ford Focus EcoBoost*

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Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for Ford Focus 1.0 EcoBoost engine range (125PS & 100PS): urban 44.8-47.9 (6.3-5.9), extra urban 67.3-68.9 (4.2-4.1), combined 56.5-58.9 (5.0-4.8). Official CO2 emission 114-109g/km. Retail only. Finance subject to status. Guarantees may be required. Freepost Ford Credit. Promotion available at participating Ford Dealers only. Test Drive finance offer applies to vehicles contracted between 01.09.2013 and 30.09.2013 and registered between 01.09.2013 and 30.09.2013. Optional 18" Alloy Wheels shown, available on selected Focus models. Please see your Ford Dealer for details.
Contact participating Dealers to test drive from 15.08.13 to 30.09.13 any Ford Focus model. Purchased vehicles to be contracted and registered by 30.09.13. *£500 saving cannot be used in conjunction with Ford Fleet terms or discounts. 2014 MY Ford Focus models excluded. See ford.co.uk.

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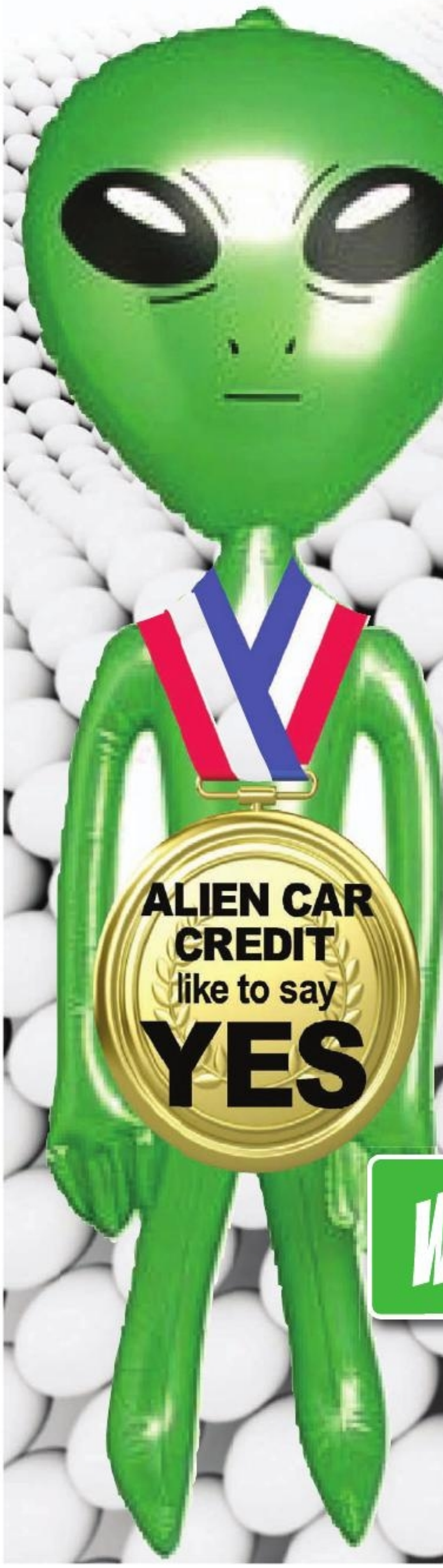

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WILDER CAN'T HIDE DISAPPOINTMENT

U's boss looking for a win but team concedes early second half goal

CHRIS Wilder says he is "disappointed" with the early second-half goal his side conceded last Saturday in their 1-1 draw at home to Rochdale.

By **James Booker**

jamesb@taylornewspapers.co.uk

United had gone into the second half with a 1-0 lead after impressively outplaying the visitors in the opening period.

But Matthew Lund's back post header cancelled out James Constable's opener for Oxford.

"I'm a touch disappointed," said the U's boss. "Especially [to concede] just after half-time, because I thought the first half was a decent performance from us. They were good opposition, but I still felt in the first half we created more chances than them.

"We gave away the ball cheaply just after half-time and invited the pressure on. If we'd have been better in that period, we'd have hopefully gone on to add to our score.

"But we didn't, and they came back into it through good play, and a bit of carelessness in possession from our point of view."

Saturday's result saw Dave Kitson play for an hour, despite suffering from sickness.

And leading scorer Deane Smalley missed out altogether, with the U's medical staff deeming he did not recover from a hamstring injury in time for kick-off.

Despite this, Wilder felt his side had chances to win the game.

"We've still had good chances," he said. "There were a couple of things that have gone against us, Deane not making it, which we were really disappointed with – we thought he would have done.

"And Dave Kitson was up all night – fair play to him for being available.

"But we still had two or three good chances, but we gave the ball away in bad areas, and then we came out fighting again."

Striker Constable is now just four short of 100 goals for the U's – the talismanic frontman fired home after Danny Rose's effort was brilliantly kept out by Josh Lillis.

And it was a special moment for Constable, with his family, including newborn baby daughter Amelia, watching from the stands.

• *James Constable scored his 96th goal for the club but it was not enough to secure the win for the U's (Picture by Steve Daniels)*

Coach to decide on final line-up

LONDON Welsh are less than two weeks away from the beginning of their Greene King Championship campaign but head coach Justin Burnell says he is still deliberating on his starting line-up.

The Exiles overcame a tough test to beat Henley Hawks 45-5 last Saturday but after mixing it up during pre-season Burnell is still unsure who will play against Bedford Blues on September 14.

He said: "I'll reflect on what I've seen, watch the videos again and look at the stats, but I'm quite confident that the 15 that take to the field against Bedford will represent London Welsh in the spirit that we're looking for this season."

Late goals a concern at City

OXFORD City manager Mike Ford says he is concerned with the amount of late goals his side are conceding after a 3-3 draw at Bradford Park Avenue.

Richard Marshall headed home in the 90th minute for Bradford, completing a second half comeback, after City had gone into the break 3-0 up thanks to goals from Mike Symons, Tom Winters and Jamie Cook.

City are currently 20th in the Skrill Conference North and Ford said: "What does concern me is the amount of late goals we are letting in at the moment.

"We've conceded four goals late in games which has really hurt us so that is something that we need to address."

Despite letting a three-goal lead slip against Bradford, Ford admitted he would have taken a point before the game.

"I think when you are getting on a coach at 9 o'clock on Saturday morning, going up to Bradford, you probably would take a draw. But I want us to be in charge of games and for 45 minutes we were."

City face Colwyn Bay at Court Place Farm this Saturday.

• *Mike Symons fends off a challenge during City's 3-3 draw at Bradford Park Avenue (Picture by Mike Allen)*

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